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Veteran Affairs of NE/Western IA Named Pioneering Site for External Provider Scheduling System

Omaha - Veteran Affairs of Nebraska and Western IA has been named as a pioneering site for the new VA External Provider Scheduling (EPS) system.

EPS is an integrated approach and extension of the MISSION Act that will allow veterans to directly schedule health care appointments with non-VA community hospitals across Nebraska. This program will effectively double access to care for thousands of veterans across the state. Veterans will now have the ability to seamlessly schedule with both the VA and local hospitals and clinics.

This yearlong effort was led by Senator Deb Fischer and her team and involved buy-in and support from all five Nebraska congressional offices. This is significant for our Nebraska veterans.

“Today’s announcement is great news for veterans across Nebraska — especially in our rural areas. It recognizes our state’s unique position and ongoing leadership in caring for veterans. In the Senate, I’ll continue supporting efforts to ensure that every veteran receives the care they have earned,” said Senator Fischer.

The Nebraska Rural Health Association has worked tirelessly with Senator Fischer to support our rural veterans and support our local health care teams. “Our selection as a pilot state is a testament to the leadership of Senator Fischer and the reputation of our rural healthcare systems,” commented Jed Hansen, Executive Director, Nebraska Rural Health Association. “The Federal VA team in Omaha and Grand Island along with Nebraska VA leadership were a big part of bringing this innovative approach to care to Nebraska

and speaks volumes to their dedication to health care for our veterans. This was truly a group effort and I look forward to working with the VA and hospital leadership teams across Nebraska to implement this program for our veterans.”

About the NeRHA

The Nebraska Rural Health Association (NeRHA) is the result of a shared vision among health care providers across Nebraska, who recognize the value of uniting in support of rural health care throughout our state. This grassroots, non-profit organization is powered and driven by its members: a wide variety of medical professionals and organizations invested in the health and wellness of rural Nebraskans.